



Photo: Lindsay McCullough, National Geographic Photo Camp



Photo: Nicolas Lemoine, France



Photo: Matt Moyer, National Geographic Photo Camp

Ocean for Life: One World, One Ocean

An Initiative to Increase Cultural Understanding through Ocean Science

SECTION V — SHORT ESSAYS

The goals and objectives of the Ocean for Life program are:

1. To bring together multi-national students in an immersive, hands-on program that allow them to explore, study, and gain new perspectives about unique ocean environments while gaining an appreciation about each other's diverse cultures.
2. To provide intercultural background materials and training for all staff and participants.
3. To provide one-of-a-kind, ocean-based field experiences for multinational students to explore their connections to the environment and each other.
4. To raise awareness of the importance of resources in the ocean, the current issues facing those resources, the research being done to address those issues, and the role of marine sanctuaries in protecting those resources.
5. To instill in participants the desire to share ocean literacy in their communities as a means to communicate our shared heritage and dependence on the ocean.
6. To develop still photography and video "youth media projects" that students can share broadly with classmates, schools, local communities, and other audiences through various outreach networks.
7. To foster a long-term collaborative education program including the classrooms and schools of all Western and Greater Middle Eastern participants.

Students will:

- be immersed in collaborative classroom, laboratory, and field activities that raise awareness of the natural world, their connection to it, and how it connects them to each other;
- gain an enhanced awareness and understanding of the conservation and stewardship of our ocean and coasts through introduction to the National Marine Sanctuary System;
- build relationships with peers and gain a better understanding of different countries and cultures;
- learn about the interconnectedness of the world's ocean and understand that their local actions impact the ocean no matter where they live;
- become advocates of ocean conservation and cross-cultural appreciation within their communities through outreach;
- be introduced to ocean science and related careers to inspire them to learn more about these types of career opportunities;
- work with mentors to learn how to use still and video cameras to photo document their field experience and develop "youth media projects."

To achieve these objectives, a variety of classroom, field and laboratory-based activities and educational lectures will be conducted and supervised by the Ocean for Life program partners, including staff from the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and partner facilities. Throughout the program, participants will be provided with opportunities to observe and describe features of the unique marine environment while developing a sense of place and interconnectedness. As a result, participants become better equipped to make informed decisions about their role in stewardship of the world's natural and cultural resources. Upon their return to their local communities or home countries, participants are expected to share their experience and the importance of preserving the vast range of marine life, habitats, historical artifacts, and ecosystems. They are also expected to communicate with each other about best practices to promote ocean conservation and cultural understanding. Through their unified voices, the public's awareness of marine ecosystems and issues of conservation will increase.

With these goals and objectives in mind, please respond to all five of the following questions. Please do not exceed 500 words for each question. These essay questions are being provided in advance of the launch of the online application system. There will be no way to save your online application, so when you submit your application you must complete it in its entirety. Therefore, it is highly recommended that you start a new Word document for these essays now, so when you apply online you can simply cut and paste your completed essay questions into the online application.

1. Why do you want to participate in the Ocean for Life program? How do you think this program will benefit your personal growth and/or aid you in reaching your future goals? What part of the Ocean for Life program do you think will interest you most and why? What aspects do you think will be the most challenging part of the program for you and why?
2. Have you ever met someone from another country or culture? If so, how were you able to

find common ground or similar interests with that person? If not, briefly describe how you would seek to find common ground upon meeting someone from another country or culture for the first time. Do you feel your understanding of that person's country or culture was improved by meeting that person? If so, briefly describe your experience.

3. The Ocean for Life program does not end with the field study; you are expected to share what you learned. Describe how you will raise public understanding at your school and in your local community about the new cultures you will learn about during the field study?
4. The Ocean for Life program is also about putting into action what you have learned. How will you raise awareness about the ocean and its resources, as well as encourage your peers and local communities to take action in ocean stewardship activities, such as beach clean-ups, watershed restoration and recycling?
5. Describe a time you have been moved or affected by a photo or film related to the environment or another culture. How did the representation connect you to the subject matter? Did you share that feeling with someone else, and if so, how?



Photo: Matt Moyer, National Geographic Photo Camp



Photo: Samaah Jaffer, Canada



Photo: Matt Moyer, National Geographic Photo Camp